

MORANDIUM FOR
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Executive Registry

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SUBJECT: NCNA Comment on US Intelligence

1. Attached is the NCNA item on US intelligence which I mentioned to you this noon.

2. It's a common Chinese technique to refer to any entity which supports their position; for example right wing newspapers and politicians. The reference to US intelligence is, however, rare but not unprecedented.

3. What makes the reference interesting is that:

- a. It is favorable;
- b. It comes after Ambassador Huang Chen's favorable comment to Bush last month on CIA estimates on the USSR;
- c. It could be linked to a growing appreciation by the Chinese of the role of intelligence in the US.

Attachment:

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STATINTL

What is lacking in the Soviet nuclear arsenal is something like U.S. cruise missiles, which cost little, are flexible in operation and cannot easily be defended against. It is for this reason that the conditions presented by the United States amount to nonplussing the Soviet Union. At present, one side wants first to reduce the number of weapons and then to hold talks, while the other wants first to hold talks and then to reduce the number of weapons; each tries to place the other's strategic weapons, which are detrimental to itself, within the limit. Thus, the gap between the two sides is quite wide.

What is more, while talking glibly about reducing and limiting nuclear weapons, the two sides are redoubling their efforts to develop their own strategic weapons. Recently, U.S. intelligence organizations and the Western press have continuously revealed that the Soviet Union, although numerically superior to the United States, is continuing to step up the research and manufacture of new and larger offensive strategic weapons in order to surpass the United States in launch vehicles, the weight of warheads, the accuracy of targeting and other aspects. At the same time, the Soviet Union is deploying a large number of SS-20 mobile missiles with the whole of Western Europe as their target.

The United States is not willing to be weakened by such a situation. The U.S. Department of Defence has ordered the production of a new generation of strategic bombers--B-1 bombers. It has also decided to test and produce three different types of cruise missiles.

As the U.S. weekly NEW REPUBLIC recently pointed out, while the U.S. and Soviet representatives are trying to limit the weapons designed in the 1960s, their scientists and military officers are designing weapons for the 1980s. All this shows that the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, talk about maintaining the balance of nuclear power but are actually contending with each other for nuclear superiority. They compete with each other and are unwilling to make any concession for fear that the other side will gain the upper hand.

This situation shows that the new round of nuclear disarmament negotiations the Soviet Union and the United States are going to start is nothing but a new fraud--another round of their nuclear arms expansion.

SOVIET UNION

NCNA CORRESPONDENT DECRIES SOVIET ARMS BUILDUP

Peking NCNA in English 0700 GMT 20 Feb 77 OW

[NCNA correspondent's commentary: "For What Has Moscow Expended 'Tremendous Effort'?"]

[Text] Peking, February 20, 1977 (HSINHUA)--In his recent speech at Tula, Brezhnev said sanctimoniously that "the relaxation of international tension was achieved at the price of tremendous effort", implying that the Soviet Union has paid a price of tremendous effort for the relaxation of international tension.

Has the Soviet Union expended "tremendous effort"? Yes, but not to ease international tension. This "tremendous effort" was spent on the rivalry with U.S. imperialism for world domination, and more specifically, on the Kremlin's objective to gain military superiority over the United States. Here are a few facts:

The Soviet arms drive has been progressing at an unprecedented pace. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies of London, since 1962, ICBM's have been developed in the Soviet Union at a rate seven times as fast as in the United States.

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GENERAL

PEOPLE'S DAILY ON SOVIET-U.S. DISARMAMENT TALKS

Peking Domestic Service, in Mandarin 0300 GMT 19 Feb 77 OW

[PEOPLE'S DAILY correspondent's commentary: "The Soviet Union and the United States engage in Unbridled Nuclear Arms Expansion While Talking Glibly About Nuclear Disarmament"--date not given]

[Text] There have recently been indications that the long-suspended, so-called Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, will be resumed. In his 18 January speech, Brezhnev called for both the Soviet and U.S. sides to complete in the near future the drafting of a so-called strategic arms limitation agreement. He made a gesture by saying: "Time is running out. We cannot further delay the signing of an agreement." The new U.S. President Carter has also repeatedly indicated that he wanted to resume nuclear disarmament talks with the Soviet Union and decided to send new U.S. Secretary of State Vance to Moscow in March for initial (?exploratory talks). The newspapers and magazines of both countries are commenting on this matter and conjecturing on its prospects. Judging by all indications, the long-suspended U.S.-Soviet diplomatic ball game will begin a new round.

The Soviet Union and the United States have been dragging their feet for many years in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. In 1972, the two sides signed a provisional agreement in Moscow, stipulating that the number of strategic guided missiles then possessed and being produced by the two countries be frozen for 5 years. In 1974, the two sides reached a verbal agreement in Vladivostok to limit the total number of strategic arms warheads to 2,400 each. However, because the Soviet Union has gone back on its word and raised its price, trying to put U.S. cruise missiles within the limit but not its own Backfire strategic bombers, the two sides have been wrangling and unable to sign a formal agreement.

Facts in the past several years have fully proved that neither talks nor agreements can limit the two superpowers' nuclear arms race. The two sides have been continuously expanding and developing their offensive strategic arms in both numbers and quality. Each side is trying hard to limit, but not be limited by, the other.

Now the Soviet Union and the United States have again made it appear as if they must continue the negotiations. Although anxious and hardly able to wait any longer, Brezhnev still blustered that it was first of all necessary to consolidate the achievements already made and opposed adding any new questions to those now under discussion. Otherwise, as he sees it, the overall (?problem) will become more complicated and take longer to solve.

The United States is seeking its own ends. According to Western agency reports, the U.S. side has disclosed that its price includes: 1) talking first about a lowering of the previous limit; 2) putting aside and postponing solution of the outstanding questions on cruise missiles and Backfire bombers, about which neither side has been willing to make any concession; 3) having the Soviet Union stop deployment of the SS-20 mobile missiles, which can constantly change launch sites; and 4) further discussing reduction of conventional weapons by both sides.

As people know, the number of Soviet offensive strategic weapons has already reached the limit of about 2,400, while that of the United States has not yet done so. The Soviet Union also possesses more conventional weapons than the United States.